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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

: Wolfgang RUF et al. oplicants

Group Art Unit 1731

Appln. No : 09/978,041

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : October 17, 2001

For : LAMELLA OF A HEADBOX OF A PAPER, CARDBOARD, OR TISSUE

MACHINE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits the following document for the Examiner's consideration:

- (1) European Patent Application No. 0 681 057 A2, published November 8, 1995, which is discussed in the above-captioned application beginning on page 1, paragraph [0003] of the disclosure; and
- (2) German Patent Application No. 40 19 593 A1, published January 9, 1992, which is discussed in the above-captioned application beginning on page 12, paragraph [0064] of the disclosure; and
- U.S. Patent No. 5,707,485, issued to Rolfson et al. January 13, 1998, which is (3) discussed in the above-captioned application beginning on page 12, paragraph [0064] of the

P21325.A01

disclosure; and

- (4) U.S. Patent No. 5,885,420, issued to Heinzmann et al. March 23, 1999, which is discussed in the above-captioned application beginning on page 12, paragraph [0064] of the disclosure; and
- (5) German Patent Application No. 43 29 810 A1, published June 23, 1994, which is discussed in the above-captioned application beginning on page 14, paragraph [0074] of the disclosure; and
- (6) U.S. Patent No. 5,639,352, issued to Ruf et al. June 17, 1997, which is discussed in the above-captioned application beginning on page 14, paragraph [0074] of the disclosure.

Copies of the above-listed documents are enclosed as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Applicants notes that while this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months from the date of filing, Applicants have not received a first action on the merits from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed documents is requested under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3).

However, if the first action on the merits has been mailed prior to the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees necessary to ensure consideration of the documents cited herein to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

P21325.A01

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

Wolfgang RUF et al

Keil F. Greenblum

Reg. No. 28,394.

January 22, 2002 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1941 Roland Clarke Place Reston, VA 20191 (703) 716-1191